

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claims 6, 8-10, and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

Claims 6, 8-10, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Ledbetter (US 2003/0025673).
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Response:

Claims 6, 8-10, and 12-14 are canceled and no longer in need of consideration.

10 2. Rejection of claims 1-5, 7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 1-5, 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ledbetter (US 2003/0025673) in view of Tsai (US 2003/0151594).

Response:

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The applicants would like to point out how claim 1 is patentable over Ledbetter (US 2003/0025673) in view of Tsai (US 2003/0151594). Ledbetter teaches an input device including an assembly for moving an image in multiple directions on a display screen. The scroll wheel assembly utilizes a tilting sensor to determine the angular displacement of the carriage relative to the assembly carrier. Signals indicative when the carriage has been tilted by the predetermined angle are transmitted from switches to a circuit board on the mouse or other computer input device. An exemplary structure achieving this tilt sensing capacity includes laterally extending contact arms and contact switches respective disposed at the ends of the tilting path of the arms. However, Ledbetter does not teach a step unit for causing a step-wise vibration feeling so that the operator can control and position the wheel easily. The laterally extending contact arms and the tilting sensors of the scroll wheel
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assembly of the cited prior art occupy inner space of the scroll wheel assembly mostly so that there is no space for disposing a step mechanism in the scroll wheel assembly of the cited prior art.

5 In addition, Tsai teaches the mouse including the friction member toward the inner wall of the wheel. The friction member has two opposing tongues which releasably engage two of the grooves so that rotation of the wheel can be sensed by a digit of the user. However, Tsai does not teach a swing-sensing module for providing other types of multiple-dimensional control. Furthermore, the step mechanism disclosed in Tsai (US 2003/0151594) can not be applied to the input device of
10 Ledbetter (US 2003/0025673). The step mechanism disclosed in Fig.1 of Tsai is disposed outside the wheel. If the step mechanism disclosed in Fig.1 of Tsai is to combine with the scroll wheel assembly of Ledbetter, the step mechanism disposed outside the wheel will interfere tilting motion of the scroll wheel assembly so that
15 the step mechanism and the scroll wheel assembly can not be put together simultaneously. Besides, the step mechanism disclosed in Fig.7 of Tsai includes opposing first and second coil parts disposed outside the wheel. If the step mechanism disclosed in Fig.7 of Tsai is to combine with the scroll wheel assembly of Ledbetter, the opposing first and second coil parts of the step mechanism disposed
20 outside the wheel will interfere tilting motion of the scroll wheel assembly so that the step mechanism and the scroll wheel assembly can not be put together simultaneously.
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 In conclusion, the step unit of the present application is disposed inside the wheel module completely so that the step unit of the present application can not interfere the swing of the pedestal of the wheel module. The step unit for causing a step-wise vibration feeling and the swing-sensing module for providing multiple-dimensional control can be put together simultaneously of the present

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application. From the aforementioned reason, the applicant believes that claim 1 of the present application shows difference since there is a major structural difference between the present application and the prior art reference. Reconsideration of claim 1 is politely requested.

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The applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art. Claims 2-5 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 2-5 is respectfully requested.

10 Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this
case.

Sincerely yours,

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Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C. is 13 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 10 PM in Taiwan.)